

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed 11 FEBRUARY 2004. Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-3, 5, 7-20, 25-33, and 41, characterized by the Examiner as being drawn to a method and apparatus having a polishing head having a retaining ring with an annular recess. The election is made without traverse.

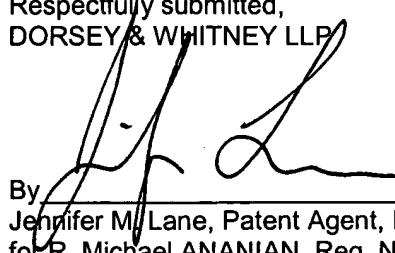
Claim Status

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-20, and 25-41 are pending after entry of the present amendment. Claims 34-40 are withdrawn herein as being directed to a non-elected invention. A complete listing of all claims that are, or were in the application, along with an appropriate status identifier, is provided above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims".

CONCLUSION

If after review, the Examiner feels there are further unresolved issues, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (415) 781-1989.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



By _____
Jennifer M. Lane, Patent Agent, Reg. No. 51,916
for R. Michael ANANIAN, Reg. No. 35,050
Filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.34(a)

Four Embarcadero Center - Suite 3400
San Francisco, California 94111-4187
Tel.: (415) 781-1989
Fax: (415) 398-3249
SF-1136773